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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Johnson
Serial No.: Not yet assigned
Filed: Concurrently herewith
For: STENT DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM
Examiner: Not yet assigned
Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-9949

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before beginning examination and calculating the fees in this application, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

In the Specification

Page 1, please delete lines 4-6 and replace them with the following:

--This application is a Continuation of U.S. Application 09/420,094 filed October 18, 1999 which is a Continuation of U.S. Application 08/940,696 filed September 30, 1997, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference --
now U.S. Patent No. 6,253,443
now U.S. Patent No. 5,972,027

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 23-42 as follows:

23.(New) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of:
providing a tube having at least two different axially spaced regions of different physical characteristics;
cutting a stent from the tube.